第2話
Even after that empty lot was dyed in orange,
Big brother and Gou-chan continued playing catch.
It looked really fun.

Chapter 2
Get serious
ALL RIGHT. SEIHA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY?
HUH?
MUST BE NICE...
sigh
Hm.

Oh?
THAT'S A NICE PITCH HE'S THROWING.
As one would expect of your grandson, coach.
YOU CAME, TOO?
WHAT?!
WELL THEN. TRY HITTING IT, INAMURA.
I MEAN, I GUESS...
BUT IS THAT REALLY OKAY?

All right!
BASEBALL IS ABOUT HAVING FUN.
DID YOU FORGET THAT?
HARADA!
LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
TAKUMI!
GOU!

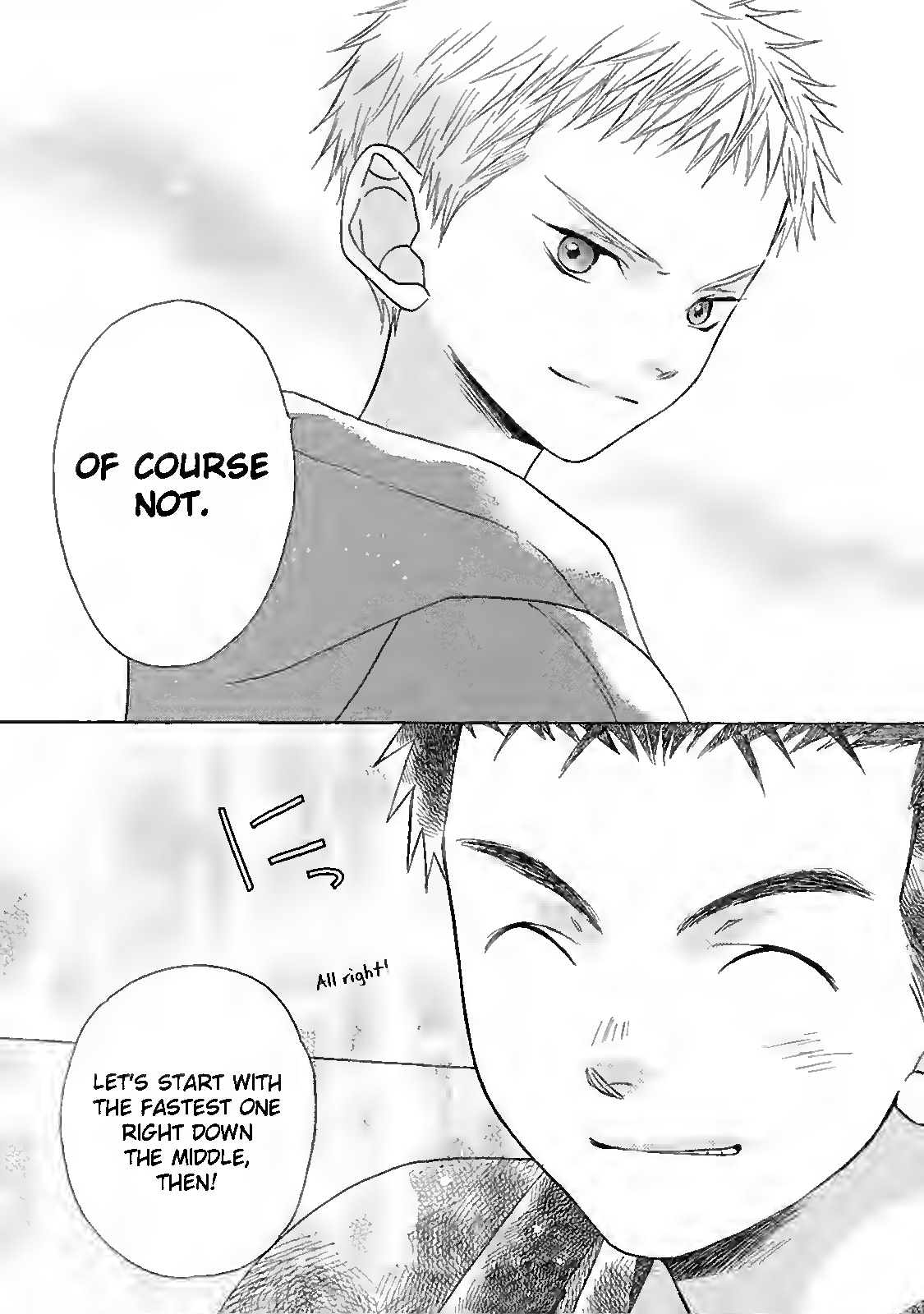
Go get it!
Ohh! Nice!
THIS MAN WILL JOIN YOU FOR TWO OR THREE PITCHES.
GO EASY ON ME.
annoyed
SURE THING.
Calm down.
THAT INAMURA GUY HAS BEEN TO THE KOSHIEN.
HEY...!
whisper

About the Koshien!
SAY, HARADA. WANT TO ASK INAMURA-SAN ABOUT IT LATER?
HE WAS ONE OF THE REGULARS BACK WHEN YOUR GRANDPA WAS COACHING.
Wait, what's
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE KOSHIEN?
NOT REALLY.
MY INTEREST IN THAT TOURNAMENT,
IS TO PITCH FROM THAT MOUND.

I COULDN'T CARE LESS
ABOUT THE STORIES OF OTHER PEOPLE.
.....
pfff
WHAT?!
chuckle
YOU'RE HIS GRANDSON, ALL RIGHT.
YOU EVEN SAY THE SAME THINGS HE DOES!
hehe
...Grandpa did?
OKAY THEN. SHALL WE?
ALREADY? ARE YOU SURE?

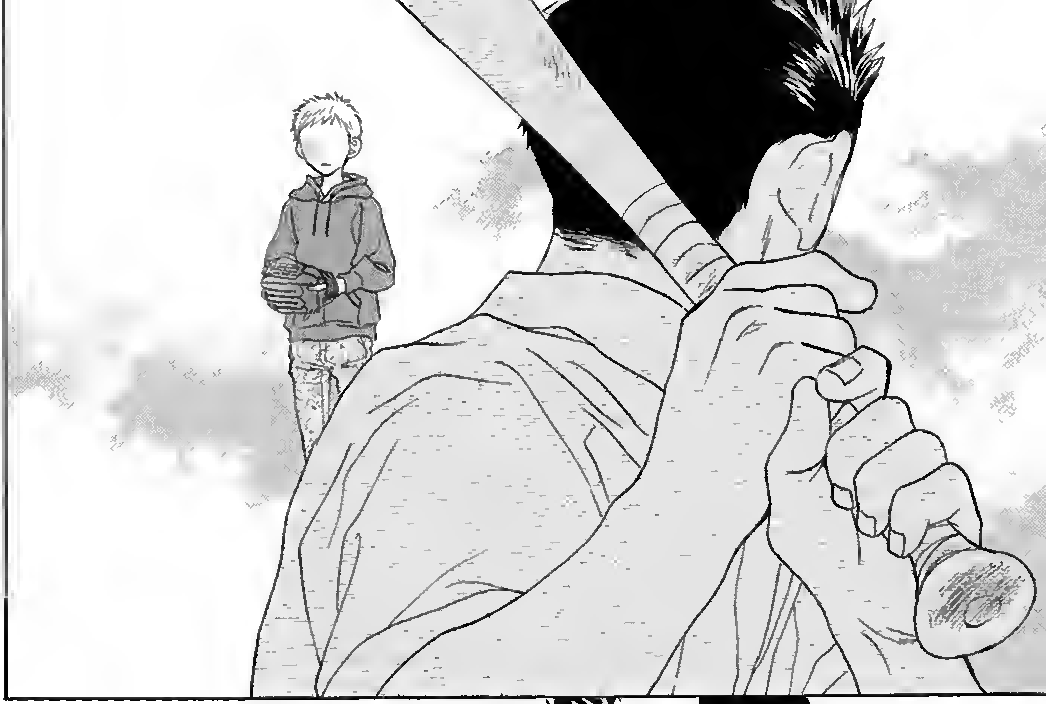
INAMURA-SAN!
DON'T LET THE CHILDREN STRIKE YOU OUT!
They're not taking us seriously at all.
Good luck, old star!
Hahahaha!
Tch.
NAGA-KURA.
DON'T DROP IT.
WHAT?
WELL, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST HELD A BAT...
BUT THIS SHOULD DO.

THIS TIME THERE WILL BE A BAT SWINGING IN FRONT OF YOU.
It's like the real deal
Woah.
You're acting as the umpire, coach?
DON'T LET IT DISTRACT YOU.
IN OTHER WORDS,
THE BALL WILL DEFINITELY NOT BE PUT INTO PLAY!

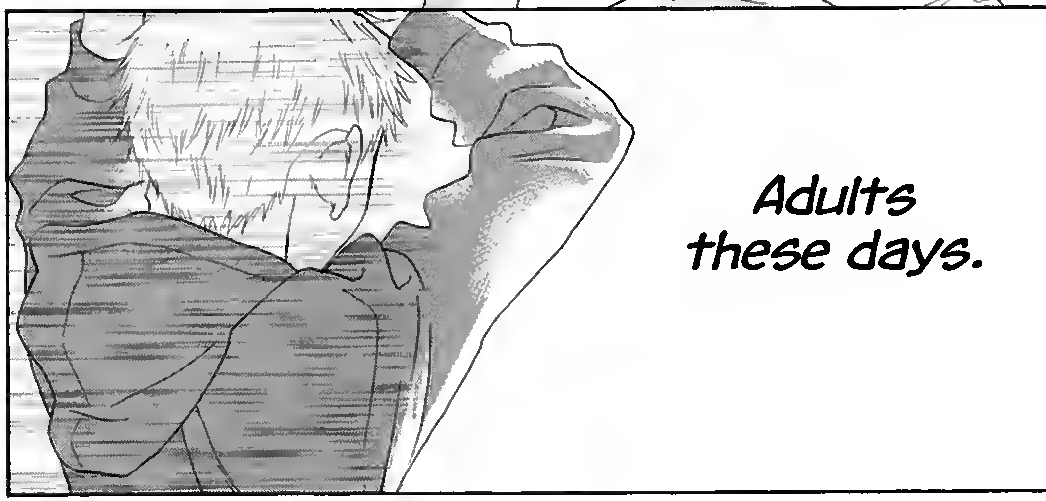

OF COURSE NOT.
All right!
LET'S START WITH THE FASTEST ONE RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE, THEN!

SHOW THEM YOUR PITCH!
BIG BROTHER!
GOU-CHAN!
oh!
GRANDPA TOLD ME TO COVER THIS AREA!

IT'S OKAY.
EVEN SEIHA CAN TAKE A GROUNDER.
ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?
IF A LINER GOES HIS WAY...
じー
じー
...A grounder?
That isn't going to happen, coach.
Okay.
LET'S START.
PLAY!
No matter how fast it is,
It's still the pitch of a junior high kid... Right?



Seriously,



Adults these days.

Beautiful.

STRIKE!
...What?

That pitch just now...
What was that?!
It was right at the center of the plate but I couldn't even graze it...!
THAT'S FAST...
IS THAT REALLY THE PITCH OF A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT...?
No.
THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY IS ON APRIL 10TH.
HE'S NOT IN JUNIOR HIGH YET.
.....!
.....

For heaven's sake, Inamura-san.
What are you doing?
Your opponents are children, you know!
TIME-OUT.
What's the matter, old star?

HOW SHAMEFUL IF YOU CAN'T HIT IT, INAMURA-SAN!
Hahaha!
YOUR SALARY WILL BE CUT!
He's finally getting serious!

Children, elementary schoolers, junior high schoolers...
Get rid of those irrelevant thoughts,
And focus only on my pitch.
That's right, get serious.
Come at me, just like that.
How very dense of you.
Even after taking a look at it, you still thought it was the kind of pitch you could hit with such a carefree attitude?

He would never, ever, be able to hit my pitch!!
However,
Even if a guy that was laughing while swinging a bat were to get serious,

Come, Harada!!
Down the middle.

Vroom!
!
...What a pitch!!

SEIHA!
A grounder, to second!
NICE!
pant

WELL DONE, SEIHA!
I'm swinging too damn late!
...SHIT!
PLEASE LET ME TRY ONE MORE TIME!
COACH!
He's just a kid fresh out of elementary school!!
All right, I get it! I'm going to lose 5kg! I'm ashamed of it myself.
Pfft!
YOU'LL NEVER HIT IT UNLESS YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BELLY, YOU FOOL.
What a disgrace
Ugh.
bump bump
PLUMP

NICE PITCHING, HARADA!
...IT FELL ON THE GROUND.
HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT HOW HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH MY PITCH.
Well, IT WAS DOWN THE MIDDLE, AFTER ALL.
BUT HE WON'T GET A HIT OFF YOU WITH A GROUNDER TO SECOND.
Inamura-san looks really frustrated

Don't tell me, he...
Did he really think the bat wouldn't even connect?
!
OF COURSE NOT.
We went with a straight fastball right in the middle against an adult Koshien player...

What incredible confidence he has in himself.
That's right, right now... I was catching the blazing pitches of that Harada Takumi!
Chugoku Tournament in Hiroshima
But,
That's Harada Takumi For you.
じ～ん
This is amazing ...!!
NAGAKURA.

WOAH!!
Oops.
YOUR RIDE.
GOu
HARADA!
YOU HAVE LESS THAN 30 MINUTES UNTIL CRAM SCHOOL,
What time do you think it is?!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DONE YOUR HOME-WORK!
I GET IT, OKAY.
Ah
TRY USING YOUR HEAD A LITTLE!
Don't get so worked up, mom
Come, let's go! You have to get changed!

WAIT FOR ME.
OKAY, I'LL PICK YOU UP AROUND NOON.
YOU DECIDE.
WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW? WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE WITH A MOUND?
Gou! Hurry up!
I HAD A BLAST TODAY!
SEE YOU!

YOU KNEW GOU-KUN HAD CRAM SCHOOL AT 5.
...TAKUMI.
TRY NOT TO CAUSE TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO OTHER PEOPLE,
TAKUMI.
Trouble ...?
AND SEIHA.
THE FEVER WILL BE BACK IF YOU DO THIS.
...AH!

WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT DRAG EVEN HIM INTO BASEBALL?
SEIHA CAN'T DO DEMANDING PHYSICAL EXERCISES.
FATHER.
We have to change your clothes right away
Come now, LET'S GO BACK, YOU'RE SWEATING.
MAMA, I CAN DO ANYTHING!
"DRAG INTO" IS A TERRIBLE WAY OF PUTTING IT.
GOOD LORD...
MOM HATES BASEBALL.
IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU.

IF YOU HADN'T MADE SEIHA WEAR THAT GLOVE,
SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN NICER TO YOU, GRANDPA.
I THINK SEIHA IS FINE, THOUGH.
WHEN I HANDED HIM THAT GLOVE, TOO...
HIS EYES WHILE HE WAS WATCHING YOU AND GOU PLAY CATCH...
THOSE WERE GOOD EYES.
KIDS WITH EYES LIKE THAT CAN ONLY GET BETTER.
STOP!

SEIHA HAS A WEAK BODY.
HE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PLAY BASEBALL!
.....
...YOU'RE MISTAKEN, TAKUMI.
YOU CAN STILL PLAY BASEBALL WITH A WEAK BODY.
ANYONE AND EVERYONE CAN ENJOY BASEBALL.
!
WELL... IF IT'S JUST PLAYING FOR FUN WITH EVERYONE, THEN EVEN SEIHA CAN PLAY...
BUT!
I'm not like that.

THOSE TWO WILL BE GREAT.
...Didn't you look at me?
Baseball isn't a pastime for me.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
BASEBALL IS FOR FUN.
What's this about Seiha's eyes?
LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GENUINELY ENJOYING THEMSELVES WHILE PLAYING. YOU COULD SEE IT IN THEIR FACES.
BOTH GOU AND SEIHA
And what about Nagakura's face?
Grandpa...

Did you see anything at all?!
My pitch, my form,
My control, my speed,
Anything...

I'M GOING TO RUN.
WHAT IS IT?
That will only destroy you, Takumi.
Playing baseball without enjoying yourself... What are you doing?
Damn it...

I'm not mistaken.
I...
Damn it...!!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, TAKUMI.

I have never been wrong, not even once!!
At that time,
I had no idea how my big brother felt.

第2話終

Scanlated by
two /a/nons.
Questions/Suggestions:
battery.manga@gmail.com